

Adolescent Pregnancy

Facts about Adolescent Pregnancy in Tennessee

- In 2002 in Tennessee births to mothers under 18 years of age were associated with \$17.0 million in billed hospital charges (infant's charges only). ¹
- In Tennessee in 2002, the pregnancy rate among black adolescents ages 15-17 years was 6.4%, over two times the rate for white adolescents ages 15-17 years (2.8%). In 2000, Tennessee ranked as the 42nd worst teen pregnancy rate in the nation. ²
- In Tennessee, the pregnancy rate for 15-17 year old women decreased 38% from 1993-2002. ²

Factors that contribute to adolescent pregnancy

- Low self esteem
- Lack of family and community support
- Lack of involvement in school and recreational activities (after-school programs)
- Use of alcohol and other drugs
- Limited knowledge about sex and sexuality

Tennessee Department of Health services to prevent teen pregnancy

The Department has a number of services that work with communities and families to support the emotional and developmental health of adolescents.

Abstinence Education

The Department's abstinence education program administers several community and school-based sites equipping youth with information on abstinence and making positive, beneficial decisions. In addition, the program offers informational brochures for parents who are interested in learning how to talk with their children about abstinence, as well as brochures for youth regarding abstinence, building resistance skills, avoiding negative peer pressure, how alcohol and other drugs affect decision making, and building self-esteem. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL 1-800-521-TEEN.**

Tennessee Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (TAPPP)

TAPPP has three primary goals: (1) to promote community awareness and involvement in adolescent pregnancy and parenting issues; (2) to facilitate collaboration among various sectors of the community to enhance and increase prevention efforts; and (3) to coordinate, improve and expand services available to pregnant and parenting adolescents. There are thirteen regional and metro TAPPP coordinators for the state. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL (615) 741-7353.**



Teen Hotline

The Department of Health operates a hotline for teenagers or others who have questions or need information about teen pregnancy, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, relationships, and personal decision making. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL 1-800-255-4936.**

Black Health Initiative Programs

The Office of Minority Health funds community based organizations that develop demonstration projects targeting African American (and Hispanic) youth, ages 10 to 19, and offer structured activities focusing on education, health care, violence reduction, appropriate social development, substance abuse prevention and employment and business skills. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL (615) 741-9443.**

Intensive Focus Prevention Programs – Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services

Structured, intensive 8-12 session programs targeting youth up to age 18 who may be at risk for developing alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use problems. Programs are age-specific, developmentally appropriate, and culturally sensitive, and include a parent/care giver component. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL (615) 741-1921.**

¹ Source: 2002 provisional merged hospital discharge and recorded birth records data, Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Policy Planning and Assessment, Division of Health Statistics.

² Pregnancy was defined as the sum of live births, fetal deaths, and induced terminations of pregnancy. Source: Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Policy Planning and Assessment, Division of Health Statistics.